

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS STATE 007444

TOSEC 44

WHITE HOUSE PASS SAM 86970

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 07444 ACTION JERUSALEM INFO

TEL AVIV JAN 13,

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 007444

TOSEC 44

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

HEREWITH WOODWARD AND BERNSTEIN BY-LINER LEAD ITEM SUNDAY

WASHINGTON POST HEADED #NIXON CLAIM OF SECURITY IS DISPUTED

-- THE 'PLUMBERS':

PRESIDENT NIXON HAS MADE UNWARRANTED USE OF THE TERM

"NATIONAL SECURITY" FOR 18 MONTHS TO RESTRICT THE

INVESTIGATION INTO THE WHITE HOUSE "PLUMBERS" UNIT AND TO

PREVENT DISCLOSURE OF SECRET WHITE HOUSE OPERATIONS,

ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE WHITE HOUSE,

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND FBI.

IN RECENT MONTHS WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS HAD MADE IT KNOWN

THAT THERE WERE THREE SPECIFIC NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS

THAT MIGHT BE REVEALED IN ANY THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE PLUMBERS, THE SPECIAL GROUP OF WHITE HOUSE OPERATIVES RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING NEWS LEAKS.

THE LAST OF THOSE THREE NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS WAS REVEALED LAST WEEK WHEN IT WAS LEARNED THAT MILITARY LIAISON AIDES IN THE WHITE HOUSE HAD PASSED INFORMATION FROM DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER'S FILES TO THE PENTAGON, AND

PERHAPS TO COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON, IN 1971, TOUCHING OFF A WHITE HOUSE INVESTIGATION PARTLY CONDUCTED BY THE PLUMBERS.

THE OTHER TWO NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS, THE SOURCES SAID, WERE THE EXISTENCE OF A "DEFECTOR IN PLACE" (WORKING FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS A DOUBLE AGENT) IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY AND THE USE OF A CIA SOURCE IN THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED BY A 1971 STORY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES. BOTH OF THESE MATTERS ACTUALLY HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN NEWS ACCOUNTS LONG AGO.

FOUR HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT SOURCES, NOTING THAT ALL THREE MATTERS HAVE NOW BEEN DISCLOSED, SAID YESTERDAY THAT THEY ARE NOT THE KIND OF PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN USED TO BLOCK INVESTIGATIONS OF ANY WRONGDOING BY THE PLUMBERS.

"NOW IT'S ALL PUBLIC AND YOU CAN SEE THAT NATIONAL SECURITY WAS INVOKED BECAUSE IT WOULD SCARE EVERYONE AND BE THE BEST JUSTIFICATION ... YOU CAN SEE THAT NO GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO FALL," SAID ONE WHITE HOUSE SOURCE WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY UNWILLING TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION.

ANOTHER WELL PLACED SOURCE SAID: "SOMEONE MAY TRY TO BRING IN SOME WAR PLANS AND TANGLE THEM ALL UP IN THIS, BUT NATIONAL SECURITY LOOKS LIKE PART OF THE COVER-UP UNCLASSIFIED

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TO ME."

HOWEVER, ONE SOURCE SAID THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT OTHER NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES NOW UNKNOWN TO THESE SOURCES MAY NOT BE RAISED IN THE FUTURE BY THE PRESIDENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLUMBERS OR THE WATERGATE AFFAIR ...

NUMEROUS SOURCES SAID THAT THE NATIONAL SECURITY MATTER REFERRED TO BY MR. NIXON, AND WHICH WAS DISCLOSED TO ERVIN AND BAKER, IS THE UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION IN 1971 OF KISSINGER'S DOCUMENTS TO THE PENTAGON BY MILITARY LIAISON AIDES IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

WHILE REPEATEDLY DECLINING TO DISCUSS THE NATURE OF THIS

NATIONAL SECURITY MATTER, SEN. BAKER HAS SAID THAT ITS SERIOUSNESS MIGHT HELP EXPLAIN SOME OF THE WATERGATE-RELATED ACTIVITY OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAD THOUGHT THAT NATIONAL SECURITY HAD SOMEHOW BEEN THREATENED.

SEN. ERVIN LAST WEEK TOLD A REPORTER THAT HE ALSO WOULD NOT DISCUSS THE SUBJECT IN DETAIL, BUT HE SAID HE THOUGHT NOT DISCUSS THE SUBJECT IN DETAIL, BUT HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT "WAS TOTALLY UNRELATED TO WATERGATE AND WOULD HELP EXPLAIN NOTHING."

SOURCES INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE AND FEDERAL INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WAS HELPING GIVE CIRCULATION TO THE STORY ABOUT THE UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION OF KISSINGER DOCUMENTS TO THE PENTAGON.

ONE WHITE HOUSE SOURCE SAID THAT "SOMEONE HERE IS TRYING TO MAKE THE PENTAGON-KISSINGER AFFAIR LOOK LIKE SEVEN DAYS IN MAY", A POPULAR NOVEL IN WHICH THE MILITARY TRIES TO TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. "IT'S NOTHING OF THE KIND," THIS SOURCE SAID, ADDING THAT THE CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE UNAUTHORIZED COPYING AND DISTRIBUTION OF KISSINGER'S CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS WAS A NAVY YEOMAN, CHARLES E. RADFORD....

PRESIDENT NIXON SAID LAST YEAR THAT HE HAD ORDERED THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ORIGINAL FBI INVESTIGATION OF THE WATERGATE AFFAIR BE RESTRICTED IN 1972 TO AVOID ESPOSING "EITHER AN UNRELATED COVERT ACTIVITY OF THE CIA OR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT" (THE OFFICIAL NAME FOR THE PLUMBERS).

IN APRIL, 1973, THE PRESIDENT ALSO ATTEMPTED TO PREVENT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FROM DISCLOSING THE PLUMBERS' BURGLARY OF ELLSBERG'S PSYCHIATRIST TO THE LOS ANGELES COURT WHERE ELLSBERG WAS ON TRIAL. THE INFORMATION WAS EVENTUALLY FORWARDED TO THE COURT ONLY AFTER THEN-ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD G. KLEINDIENST INSISTED ON IT.

THEN, IN THE SUMMER AND FALL OF LAST YEAR, J. FRED BUZHARDT, THE WHITE HOUSE SPECIAL COUNSEL ADVISING THE PRESIDENT ON WATERGATE, ATTEMPTED TO DISCOURAGE CRIMINAL INDICTMENTS OF WHITE HOUSE AIDES INVOLVED IN THE PLUMBER'S ACTIVITIES.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID THAT BUZHARDT ARGUED THE INDICTMENTS OF FORMER PRESIDENTIAL AIDES JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN, CHARLES W. COLSON AND EGIL (BUD) KROGH JR. -- ALL WITH CONNECTIONS TO THE PLUMBERS -- COULD THREATEN THE NATIONAL

SECURITY BECAUSE THE THREE MEN MIGHT DISCLOSE OTHER NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS AS PAR OF THEIR DEFENSE.

SOURCES SAID THIS WEEK THAT BUZHARDT SPECIFICALLY SOURCES SAID THIS WEEK THAT BUZHARDT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THREE ITEMS THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE NATIONAL SECURITY: THE UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION OF KISSINGER,S PAPERS; THE SOVIET DEFECTORS; AND THE CIA INFORMER IN THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE HAS DENIED THAT BUZHARDT WAS ATTEMPTING TO DISCOURAGE INDICTMENTS OF ANY SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. HOWEVER, SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH BUZHARDT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT PROSECUTORS SAID THAT BUZHARDT MADE HIMSELF CLEAR. "FRED IS ALWAYS INDIRECT," ONE SOURCE SAID, "BUT HE LEFT HIS MESSAGE WITH THREE NAMES ON IT -- EHRlichman, COLSON, AND KROGH."

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COLSON HAS WRITTEN AND SENT A 41-PAGE MEMO TO SPECIAL WATERGATE PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI ARGUING THAT IF HE IS INDICTED IN THE ELLSBERG CASE HE WILL DEFEND HIMSELF BY REQUESTING THAT HIGHLY SENSITIVE NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS BE INTRODUCED IN COURT, ACCORDING TO A CBS NEWS REPORT ON FRIDAY.

CBS REPORTER LESLEY STAHL QUOTED THE COLSON MEMO AS SAYING THAT, IF INDICTED, COLSON WOULD ALSO ASK THAT PRESIDENT NIXON BE CALLED TO TESTIFY AT THE TRIAL.

A RELIABLE GOVERNMENT SOURCE CONFIRMED THIS REPORT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST YESTERDAY.

IN ADDITION, A WHITE HOUSE SOURCE SAID THIS WEEK THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S NEW SPECIAL WATERGATE DEFENSE COUNSEL, JAMES D. ST. CLAIR, REPRESENTED COLSON FOR SEVERAL WEEKS LAST YEAR. THE SOURCE SAID THAT ST. CLAIR WAS BROUGHT INTO COLSON'S DEFENSE WHEN IT APPEARED THAT COLSON'S CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL, HIS LAW PARTNER DAVID I. SHAPIRO, MIGHT BE A WITNESS IN THE CASE. RUSH

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